(b) whether this has decreased or increased during the last ten years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check deforestation and development of the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z.R ANSARI):(a) The registered area of forests in the country is 22.73 percent of the total geographical area. The actual area with tree cover has been assessed as only 14.10 per cent as per analysis of satellite imagery for 1980-82.

(b) The forest area has decreased during last 10 years.

(c) The following are the important steps taken by the Government to check deforestation and development of the forests:—

1. Strict enforcement of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and of various other enactments to prevent unauthorised felling of trees.

2. Strict enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which requires a State Government or any other Authority to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before diverting forest to non-forest use.

3. Elimination of the agency of contractors in the working of forests in most of the States.

4. Setting up of National wastelands Development Board with the object of raising 5 million ha. of plantation every year for fuel and fodder and enlisting people's cooperation therefor.

5. Creation of fuelwood reserves by undertaking massive tree plantation within and outside the forest areas.

6. Taking up of intensive studies of the problems of grazing, encroachment and shifting cultivation with a view to find longterm solutions.

Enquiry into missing of Radium Needles

3163. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay have been enquiring into missing of radium needle from a mission hospital in Shillong;

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings;

(c) whether the rest of the radium needles have been taken into possession by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The patient was implanted with radium needles having a total radium content of 9.5 rogs on 17-6-85. The Hospital staff found the needles were missing from the body of the patient on 19-6-85. As soon as BARC was informed, experts were sent to look into the matter. The present stock of radium with the Hospital is 345 mgs. The accessible areas in and around the institution are safe from the radiation safety view point.

(c) to (e) The radium stock has been frozen.

Collecting of reliable data from various sources

3164. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present method adopted by the Planning Commission for collecting data from various sources;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the absence of reliable and relevant data most of he economic programmes are not successful; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by the Commission to base the programmes on reliable data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Planning Commission is not the primary source agency for collection of data. It collects data from development plan proposals and progress reports submitted by Central Ministries, State Governments and other agencies in the formats prescribed by the Commission as well as from notes, proposals, review meetings, minutes, etc. received from the above agencies. Data are also collected from reports of Committees, Parliament proceedings, published documents and through field visits, discussions and informal contacts with Ministries and other Government agencies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending cases of compensation for trucks burnt in Delhi riots

3165. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 2765 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 1985 and state:

(a) what are the names and addresses of those among the pending cases of 167 truck owners of Delhi whose claims for compensation for their trucks burnt/damaged during the November, 1984 riots have been disposed of;

(b) the names of those claimants whose cases are still pending disposal and by when these are likely to be cleared;

(c) what are the names of those claimants who had taken only third party insurance covers and had lodged reports with police regarding burning of/damage to their trucks in the riots;

(d) whether claims of such persons are also being considered for compensation; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide any relief to such persons to alleviate their sufferings caused by the loss of their source of income; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) All the 167 cases have since been disposed of. A list of the claimants with their addresses as has been made available by the Delhi Administration is attached as annexure. [*See* Appendix CXXXVI, Annuxure No 68].